

I CLAIM:

1. A ladder comprising:
 - a step portion comprising:
 - steps;
 - a ladder base adapted to reside on a ladder support surface when the ladder is in use;
 - a ladder top opposite said ladder base; and
 - first and second ladder sides connected by said steps and extending between said ladder base and said ladder top; and
 - a fixed axle base wheel mounted to one of said ladder sides, said base wheel proximal to said ladder base,
 - wherein said base wheel is adapted to rollably support said ladder base when said ladder is positioned with said ladder steps nearly perpendicular to the support surface and said ladder top lifted away from the support surface.
2. The ladder of Claim 1, wherein said base wheel is a roller-scooter type wheel.
3. The ladder of Claim 1, wherein said base wheel is a shopping-cart type wheel.
4. The ladder of Claim 1, wherein said fixed axle base wheel is between approximately three inches in diameter and approximately six inches in diameter.

5. The ladder of Claim 1, wherein said fixed axle base wheel is approximately five inches in diameter.
6. The ladder of Claim 1, further including a fixed rotational axis of said fixed axle base wheel, wherein said fixed rotational axis is substantially perpendicular to a plane parallel to the step portion.
7. The ladder of Claim 1, wherein the base wheel is mounted by a surface mount, said surface mount attached to ladder by rivets.
8. The ladder of Claim 1, wherein said base wheel rotates about a fixed axle, and wherein said fixed axle is fixedly attached by a stand-off to said ladder side which said fixed axle base wheel is mounted.
9. The ladder of Claim 1, wherein said ladder side which said fixed axle base wheel is mounted to defines a wheel opening, wherein said fixed axle base wheel protrudes partially through the wheel opening.
10. The ladder of Claim 9, wherein said base wheel rotates about a fixed axle, and wherein the fixed axle is in intimate contact with the ladder side defining the wheel opening.
11. The ladder of Claim 1, further including a second wheel mounted to the same one of said ladder sides as said base wheel is mounted, said second wheel proximal to said ladder top, and wherein said second wheel is adapted to

4 rollably support said ladder top when said fixed axle base wheel and said
5 second wheel are in contact with the support surface.

12. The ladder of Claim 11, wherein said second wheel comprises a caster-type wheel.

13. The ladder of Claim 1, wherein said ladder includes at least one hinged portion attached to said step portion by a pivot proximal to the ladder top.

14. The ladder of Claim 13, wherein the at least one hinged portion comprises one hinged portion, and wherein a second base wheel is mounted to the one hinged portion, wherein the second base wheel is adjacent to the base wheel mounted to the step portion.

15. The ladder of Claim 1, wherein said ladder includes an extension portion slidably cooperating with the step portion.

1 16. A ladder comprising:
2 a ladder base adapted to reside on a ladder support surface when the
3 ladder is in use;
4 a ladder top opposite said ladder base;
5 first and second ladder sides extending between said ladder base and
6 said ladder top, wherein ladder steps are attached between the ladder sides;
7 a fixed axle base wheel assembly mounted to said first ladder side, said
8 base wheel proximal to said ladder base; and
9 wherein:

10 said fixed axle base wheel assembly is adapted to rollably support
11 said ladder base when said ladder steps are substantially perpendicular to the
12 support surface.

17. The ladder of Claim 16, wherein said fixed axle base wheel assembly
include a wheel, and said ladder side which said fixed axle base wheel assembly
is mounted to defines a wheel opening, wherein said wheel protrudes partially
through said wheel opening.

18. The ladder of Claim 17, wherein said wheel is between approximately
three inches in diameter and approximately six inches in diameter.

1 19. A ladder comprising:
2 a step portion comprising:
3 ladder steps;
4 a ladder base adapted to reside on a ladder support surface when
5 the ladder is in use;
6 a ladder top opposite said ladder base; and
7 first and second ladder sides connected by said ladder steps and
8 extending between said ladder base and said ladder top;
9 a wheel opening in one of a group consisting of the first ladder side and
10 the second ladder side, wherein the wheel opening is proximal to the ladder
11 base and is in a surface of the ladder base substantially perpendicular to the
12 ladder steps;

13 an axle fixedly attached to the ladder side, the axle approximately
14 centered on the wheel opening and substantially perpendicular to a plane
15 passing through said ladder steps; and
16 a wheel rotatably mounted to the fixed axle,
17 wherein:
18 said fixed axle base wheel is adapted to rollably support said
19 ladder when said ladder steps are substantially perpendicular to the support
20 surface, and said base wheel and said second wheel are residing on the support
21 surface.

20. The ladder of Claim 19, wherein:

 said base wheel is between approximately three inches in diameter and
 approximately six inches in diameter.